

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Kurdish Baptist workers in danger of execution

ANKARA, Turkey (BP) — Most relief workers from America — including Southern Baptists — have safely departed northern Iraq in the wake of Saddam Hussein's sweep into the area, but hundreds of their local Kurdish employees could face execution at the hands of Iraqi secret police.

Four Southern Baptist workers and their children left the town of Zakho in northern Iraq and crossed into Turkey after 40,000 Iraqi troops streamed into Irbil, the regional capital, at the invitation of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP). The Iraqis helped KDP forces defeat another Kurdish faction, the Iranian-backed Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

The United States responded by bombing Iraqi anti-aircraft installations, expanding the allied "no fly" zone in the south and pledging to uphold the "no fly" zone over the Kurdish region. But regardless of what happens in the skies, Saddam Hussein has regained virtual control of the north on the ground through the KDP and a horde of secret police sent in behind Iraqi troops.

"We're trying to get our Kurdish workers out of there," a Southern Baptist worker said in a Sept. 13 phone interview from Ankara, Turkey. The worker, who asked not to be identified for security reasons, oversees relief and medical work Southern Baptists have performed in northern Iraq since the end of the Gulf War.

"We have about 60 (Kurdish) staff, and about 300 people including all their family members," he said. "We've been here for a week talking to the U.S. Embassy, representatives of the U.S. Office of Disaster Assistance (OFDA), UNICEF, the U.N. High Commission for Refugees, and others. We can't get them to give us a definite answer."

Although the Iraqi-allied KDP has said they will protect these workers, Saddam has made no secret of his intention to punish Kurds who have worked with the U.S. government or Western aid groups since the Gulf War.

"To Saddam it doesn't make any difference whether they're a direct hire or work for a (private agency)," said the worker.

"He's going to kill them just the same. They need protection and they need to get out."

U.S. authorities say they are evacuating Kurdish workers employed by the military operation and humanitarian projects sponsored by "Operation Provide Comfort," the five-year-old allied effort to guarantee a safe haven for Kurds in northern Iraq.

But so far, the evacuation includes only Kurds directly hired by the American military and U.S. government agencies, according to sources in Turkey and Washington. On Sept. 15, those Kurdish workers and their families — numbering about 2,000 — began departing in buses under armed guard for refugee camps in Turkey. From there they are being flown to a U.S. military base in Guam, where they will be processed for refugee resettlement in the United States and elsewhere.

That leaves hundreds of Kurdish employees of Western aid groups and non-government organizations — plus their spouses and several thousand children — at grave risk.

"That's our people, and we're afraid the Americans are going to leave them stranded there to face Saddam without any kind of help," the Southern Baptist worker said.

A U.S. Embassy official in Turkey told the Southern Baptist worker that Kurdish employees of private relief agencies were "not even part of the discussion anymore" as evacuation plans developed.

Officials at the U.S. State Department's Office of Disaster Assistance said Sept. 13 they were trying to avoid "another Vietnam" in northern Iraq — recalling scenes of Americans fleeing Saigon in helicopters

from the U.S. Embassy's roof while their terrified Vietnamese co-workers were left behind to face victorious communists rolling into the city.

"It's true that the first batch (of planned evacuees) is U.S. government direct hires," said OFDA officer Getahum Reta. "But OFDA has asked all (humanitarian agencies) to give us a list of Kurdish hires who have worked under U.S. government grants ... and we're in the process of gathering those names to pass them on to higher authorities."

The final decision on whether to rescue Kurds at risk, Reta said, is in the hands of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the National Security Council — and the White House.

Contacted Sept. 16, State Department Iraq desk officer David Bame said that decision still had not been made, but would be "fairly soon. I've been told it's under expedited consideration at very, very high levels of the U.S. government."

InterAction, a Washington-based umbrella coalition of 150 humanitarian agencies, sent an urgent letter to the State Department and National Security Council appealing for immediate steps to "protect the (Kurdish) employees who have put their lives at risk by working for the international relief effort."

Several Kurdish employees of a Catholic relief agency in northern Iraq already have been shot in Irbil, according to InterAction sources.

The United States, the letter said, is "in a position to foresee that such brutal executions will continue if immediate action is not taken."

Berta Romero, program officer of InterAction's migration and refugee affairs office, urged American citizens to contact the State Department and National Security Council directly or through their congressmen.

"They need a lot of pressure. They need to be hearing from everybody," Romero said. "They're dragging their feet on the whole issue."

How to help Kurdish Baptist workers

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — To appeal to the U.S. government to evacuate Kurdish workers associated with Southern Baptist relief work and other Western humanitarian efforts in northern Iraq, immediately call your U.S. congressman, senators, and the White House to request their urgent intervention. Also contact:

Phyllis Coffey

Assistant Secretary of State

Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration

Department of State, Washington, D.C.

Phone: (202) 462-2444

FAX: (202) 462-2444

Internet: pram@state.gov

Web: www.state.gov/pram

For more information, contact:

John R. Hines

Executive Director

International Baptist Relief

1000 North 1st Street

Richmond, Va. 23219

Phone: (800) 441-1111

FAX: (800) 441-1111

Internet: info@ibrelief.org

Web: www.ibrelief.org

Phone: (202) 436-9141

FAX: (202) 436-9140

Cornbread gospel

The "bread of life" has new meaning for many Belgians, thanks to a Southern Baptist missionary who recently discovered a novel way to share the gospel. Illinois native Laurie Ingram put her affinity for cooking to good use when she rented the kitchen of a downtown Antwerp baked goods store and offered American breadmaking classes. Between instructions on how to make cornbread and biscuits, she led five-minute devotionals and shared her personal relationship with Jesus Christ. "I think (the ministry) would especially be beneficial in a culture where people have at least some religious background and where Baptists are not seen as a cult as they are in Belgium. They've never heard of Baptists," Ingram said. Although the country is 90% Roman Catholic, less than 10% of Belgians ever attend mass. "The predominant religion is humanism and materialism," she pointed out. Ingram is undaunted by the statistics, however. "Through my church I gained an understanding of what it means to have a relationship with Jesus Christ and how important it is to share that message with others," Ingram said.

Poor management

Churches ruled by a "board of deacons" are unbiblical and ripe for decline, according to a deacon ministry specialist at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. Robert Sheffield believes such a management model — likely utilized by thousands of the 40,000 Southern Baptist churches in America — makes deacons merely "financial managers" and fails to develop the predominant servant nature that characterized the first deacons in Acts 6. "We as Southern Baptists sometimes lapse into our traditions without checking them by Scripture. The Scriptures are to inform our traditions, not our traditions interpreting Scripture for us," he said. Sheffield pointed out that church members can prevent such a situation in their church by stepping up and taking more responsibility for church management, in order to free the deacons from being simply a clearinghouse for business matters. "We all are actually servants of the Lord to and through the church, not servants of the church first. If we don't get the vertical relationship straight, we are going to have trouble with the horizontal relationships," he said.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Smoke alarms and quick action by a houseparent at the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village avert tragedy when Quarles Cottage erupts in flames in the middle of the night while the facility is filled to capacity with teenaged girls.

20 years ago

Thomas Bonds of Roxie travels 900 round-trip miles to attend classes at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., during the week and pastor Sardis Lake Church in Sardis each weekend. "I think it's the greatest church in the world," he says.

50 years ago

M. Theron Rankin of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board calls on Mississippi Baptists to support the post-war world evangelism effort, noting that most Chinese Baptists exhausted more than 90% of their resources during the war.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

WILLIAM H. PERKINS JR.

Choosing right over profit

At last — someone willing to stand in the gap for young people against the most pervasive drug in our society.

Yes, alcohol is a drug, and when Jackson State University President James Lyons announced Sept. 11 that no beer will be sold at the predominantly African-American school's home games in Mississippi Memorial Stadium, he displayed a degree of moral courage obviously lacking in many of his higher education peers and others in the public arena.

"The people that love us and support us are totally opposed to it. The African-American community is working extremely hard to sensitize young people to alcohol and drug abuse... they feel allowing beer to be sold at football games would be a contradiction," Lyons told "The Clarion-Ledger" newspaper.

He added that he is aware people smuggle liquor into the stadium, but he pointed out, "That's a security issue..."

He's right on all counts.

Too many young people see adults talking the talk, but not walking the walk. How can we expect them not to drink when they see adults awash in alcohol? What kind of mixed message is that?

If people are breaking the law by bringing contraband of any type into the stadium, that indeed is a side issue best handled by security experts and law enforcement officers.

Given all the poverty, violence, loss of innocent life, and assorted other miseries visited upon our state by the consumption of alcohol, one would think a popular outcry would arise against its abuse at college football games.

Not so.

Rick Cleveland, sports columnist for "The Clarion-Ledger," wrote a Sept. 12 column that is emblematic of the twisted logic clouding public discourse on this important issue.

Cleveland took Lyons to task for his decision against selling beer. Commenting on all the broken liquor bottles he sees after the

stadium stands empty, Cleveland said, "Seems to me that beer in cups — at a profit — is much preferable to whiskey in bottles, which break..."

The intellectual dishonesty of such a statement is hard to overlook. If only beer could be sold, would all those civic-minded whiskey drinkers gladly switch to plastic cups for safety's sake? Would there ever be another bottle of whiskey smuggled into the stadium?

Worse yet, would the parents of a dead child, struck by a drunken fan driving away from the stadium, feel better because their loss was caused by too much beer in plastic cups instead of too much whiskey in bottles?

Then there's the issue of profit. In choosing right over profit, Lyons turned down a 50-50 offer to split the proceeds from beer sales, which amounted to about \$14,000 at the recent Ole Miss-VMI game at the stadium.

What's a life worth to James Lyons? Apparently, much more than \$7,000.

"I COULD'VE STUDIED MY LESSON INSTEAD OF WASTING TWO HOURS ON THAT BALL GAME! OH WELL, IT'S ONLY SATURDAY NIGHT!"



A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

CARL M. WHITE

Mississippi Baptists know about giving; see state offering, Cooperative Program

William Willimon, who is minister of the University and professor of religion at Duke, has compiled a delightful book titled, "And the Laugh Shall be First."

It is a treasure of religious humor, including selections from Mark Twain, Sinclair Lewis, Lewis Grizzard, and others.

One selection was written by a Canadian named George Ade at the turn of the century. It is called, "The Fable of the Good People Who Rallied to the Support of the Church."

It seems a local church was in need of some repairs. The woman's society decided to hold a "Raspberry Festival" as a fund raiser.

Before it was all said and done, 22 members of the church went out and bought new clothes.

At approximately \$8 a person, the total expenditure was \$176. The hostess spent \$9 for Chinese lanterns to adorn her yard.

The group then spent \$7 on labor to unload, set up, and take down the tables and chairs.

On the night of the festival, \$45 worth of shrubs were trampled. At clean up, it was discovered that \$17 worth of silverware was missing.

Twenty nine dollars worth of

summer suits were ruined at the affair, either by children or adults.

Four children gorged themselves to the point of being sick, resulting in \$18 in medical bills.

After all the food and supplies were paid for, the woman's society cleared a grand total of \$6.80 for the needed repairs at the church.

Ade concludes this fable with a moral: people will do anything to keep from dropping money in the offering plate!

I laughed all the way through this little essay.

People are funny. Ask for a donation, and the plate will go by half-empty.

Ask people to attend a fund raiser, and they will go out and buy new clothes and spend a small fortune pulling it off.

Which goes to prove that giving does not come naturally. It is a learned behavior.

Mississippi Baptists have learned well how to give. Consider, for instance, the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering. Last year's gifts surpassed the \$705,350 goal by \$42,511.

Look at state Cooperative Program receipts. In 1995, gifts exceed-

ed the budget by \$609,857, or 2.7%.

At the end of June we are running 2.86% ahead of last year's state budget.

According to David Michel, director of Cooperative Program promotion for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, we regularly lead the nation in mission giving.

Mississippi Baptists know how to give.

Still being new to the Baptist Building, I am constantly amazed at three things.

One, how much these people like to eat. They'll use any excuse to have a pot-luck dinner.

Two, how many people throughout the state are being touched by what is done here.

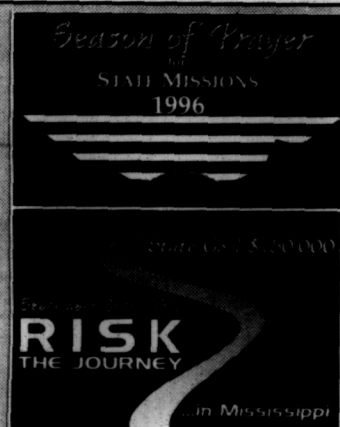
Three, how tight everyone is with money.

That is how it should be.

After all, this is mission money — your money — given to help bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

The Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions will help do that very thing.

That is one pastor's perspective. Now, let's eat!



State missions offering could start new ministry

An added feature of the 1996 Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering could help start new ministry efforts all over the state of Mississippi. Called "Start Something New," this challenge portion of the annual missions offering provides a unique opportunity for churches and associations to develop new areas of outreach and ministry. A "Start Something New" ministry might be a mission Vacation Bible School, a Backyard Bible Club, literature supplies for a new mission, a clothing closet — any number of ministries which a church or association might start in their efforts to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

The annual state mission offering goal of \$750,000 is used to fund mission work within the state of Mississippi. If the basic goal of \$738,000 is met, additional funds of up to \$12,000 will be made available for new ministry efforts. The money will be granted as one-time only \$500 allocations on a first-come, first-served basis. It will be available only after the basic goal of the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering has been reached. The money will not be applicable toward any existing ministry, but only to new ministries within the state of Mississippi.

For more information about "Start Something New," contact the Missions Extension and Associational Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

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Lewis leaving Home Mission Board for Mission America

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Larry Lewis is retiring as Home Mission Board (HMB) president to work with Mission America, a network of 100 denominational and para-denominational evangelical organizations.

After nearly 10 years as president, the Missouri native will step down Jan. 1, 1997. Lewis, 61, will continue to be paid by the Home Mission Board but will receive "significantly less salary" than his package as president, said Greg Martin, pastor Lewis of Commission

Road Church, Long Beach, and chairman of the HMB board of directors.

The agreement was approved by the administrative committee of the HMB directors in their Sept. 10 regular meeting.

Lewis will be a national facilitator for Celebrate Jesus 2000, an HMB initiative that involves praying, sharing the gospel individually and in groups, and helping new Christians become disciples.

"I know of no one more qualified for this than Larry Lewis, qualified both with experience and spiritual vision," said Paul Cedar, chairman of the 2-year-old Mission

America movement. "We are truly thrilled at this unexpected and extravagant gift from God."

The Mission America mission statement is, "The whole Church in the United States taking the whole gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole nation in our generation — and to all the world."

In addition to evangelical denominations, Mission America is endorsed by groups such as Campus Crusade for Christ and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Lewis will work closely with Southern Baptists and other evangelicals in participating Mission America groups. The Celebrate Jesus strategy was introduced May 1 to representatives of 175 Christian organizations and received hearty endorsement across denominational lines. Representatives of five evangelical organizations showed support for the strategy by participating in this year's HMB report to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

"Needless to say, I'm challenged and excited to be part of one of the most extensive evangelistic thrusts in our nation's history," Lewis said.

Lewis' resignation comes less than a year before the Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Radio and Television Commission are dissolved and combined into one

organization, the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

"I felt a very definite leadership when I became your president in 1987, but my vision is for the 20th century, not the 21st," Lewis told board members and HMB staff. "I believe the new agency needs a new president with a new vision for a new century."

"Nobody asked me or pressured me to do this or even suggested it to me. It was my recommendation and I am the one who suggested it," Lewis said. "At the same time I have not felt any release from the work of home missions."

Lewis received a standing ovation from board of directors and HMB staff after announcing his resignation.

Speaking for the HMB staff, J.B. Graham, associate vice president for church extension, thanked Lewis for his "excellent and heroic leadership."

Board members discussed asking Ernest Kelley, HMB executive vice president, to serve as interim president, but official action will not be taken until the December board meeting.

Prior to coming to the Home Mission Board, Lewis was presi-

dent of Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo. Lewis earned master's degrees in divinity and religious education from Southwestern Seminary and his doctorate from Luther Rice Seminary. He formerly was pastor of churches in Ohio, New Jersey, and Missouri.

During Lewis' HMB tenure, the number of home missionaries increased from 3,637 in 1986 to 4,857, including 1,277 full-time volunteers working in one place more than two years. Home missionaries serve in all 50 states, the Caribbean, Canada, Guam, and American Samoa.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Draper visits Baptist Building; applauds Mississippi Baptists

By William H. Perkins Jr.

"I have come to listen to you. We need to know each other," said Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) president Jimmy Draper at the beginning of his Sept. 12 visit with Baptist Building workers in Jackson.

Draper praised Mississippi Baptists for their special standing in the Southern Baptist Convention and pointed out that support for Jackson's Baptist Book Store in Ridgewood Court has made it "one of the strongest" in the BSSB book store chain.

"No state has developed Southern Baptist leaders like Mississippi has. Mississippi Baptists are a strong conglomerate of who Southern Baptists are," he said.

Draper reported that BSSB, which must generate its own income, has made a financial turnaround after experiencing a record deficit of \$11 million over a two-year period.

"I'm not a real smart businessman, but even I knew that was the wrong direction," he stressed.

Draper said the turnaround has included assembling a proven management team, an internal restructuring, and a new computer system to replace older systems cobbled

together over several decades — all while continuing the day-to-day business of the board.

"It's been like changing a tire at 60 miles an hour," he said.

Draper estimated that the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) restructuring, approved in a final vote by messengers to the 1996 annual meeting in New Orleans, will cost BSSB about \$1.25 million as the agency absorbs other SBC entities and takes on new responsibilities.

"(The SBC restructuring) has taken a great deal of time. We are excited about it," he said.

"I have told the people at BSSB that we don't have a ministry; our job is to serve the churches," Draper pointed out.

In response to a question posed by Marjean Patterson, executive director of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), concerning the role of WMU in the SBC, Draper said he expected BSSB to continue the relationship between the two entities.

"We don't plan to be competitive with WMU. I see (WMU) as a very vital part of what we are doing. We see ourselves as

facilitators... an umbrella for resources," he explained.

Draper added that he expected the same to be true for men's ministries under the SBC restructuring plan; which shifts Brotherhood work to the new North American Mission Board.

In response to another inquiry, Draper said BSSB is not designing Sunday School materials more generically to appeal to a wider audience in the highly-competitive marketplace for those materials.

"I don't think that's true. We won't ever make our materials generic," he pointed out.

Draper also said the committee recently appointed to explore a name change for BSSB does not have a pre-conceived notion that the name must be changed.

"Sunday School is only one of 17 functions at BSSB. The name will always include '...of the Southern Baptist Convention,'" he stressed.

Draper's dialog with Mississippi Baptist Convention Board employees — his 12th visit this year in state convention headquarters across the SBC — also included sessions with individual departments in the Baptist Building.



Jimmy Draper (right), president of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, discusses Southern Baptist Convention issues with Gene Dobbs (center), executive assistant at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), and Paul Harrell, director of the Mississippi Brotherhood Department at MBCB, prior to the start of a Sept. 12 dialog session with MBCB employees in the chapel of the Baptist Building in Jackson, Mississippi was the 12th state convention headquarters to be visited this year by Draper. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

New 'Vessels' video features Honduran boy, Sunday Care

On a road in Honduras, a gravel truck hits a small boy on a bicycle, gravely injuring him.

A man in clown makeup begins to open a gift that has a surprising message.

A van pulls up and enthusiastic children of all ages race to enter a church building for a day of fun and learning.

What do these three stories have in common? They are all part of the work of Baptists in Mississippi as told in the new issue of "Vessels," a video magazine that captures images of Mississippi Baptists working together to bring Mississippi and world to Jesus.

The current issue contains three segments. The first segment tells the story of Jose, the Honduran boy hit by a gravel truck.

Mississippi Baptists heard about his needs and began the process that brought healing to Jose's broken body.

The second segment showcases the Christian Performing Arts festival, an annual training event sponsored by the Discipleship Training Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) for people interested in sharing their faith through the performing arts.

The segment gives viewers a peek at the rich variety of witness training opportunities available through this festival.

The third segment describes Sunday Care, a statewide program for reaching children who do not know the Lord.

Going into communities that are unreached by the gospel, Sunday Care offers children the opportunity to hear about Jesus. Video viewers can see how Sunday Care brings hope to children in two Mississippi communities.

"Vessels" is produced three times per year by the MBCB Church Information

Support Team, and is mailed to directors of missions, convention board members, area prayer coordinators, area Baptist Men and RA leaders, and associational Woman's Missionary Union leaders.

It is also available by loan from the Broadcast Services Department of the MBCB, or by individual subscription at \$18 per year.

For more information contact Farrell Blankenship, Director of Broadcast Services, MBCB, at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800 or toll free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Compensation study reveals Mississippi statistics

by Carl M. White

Although 67% of full-time Southern Baptist pastors who participated in a recent study hold master's degrees, only 13% receive compensation comparable to a layperson with similar education, according to a just-released compensation study.

In addition, the study shows full-time ministerial staff members, on average, earn 69% of what the pastors of their churches are paid.

The study, designed by Don Spencer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in cooperation with 12 other state or regional Baptist conventions, compared 1996 ministerial compensation with data from the United States Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Spencer pointed out that ministers are generally on the low end for positions with comparable education requirements and responsibility.

However, churches with budgets of more than \$400,000 are likely to pay their pastor more than the current U.S. average for a person with an advanced degree.

According to the Labor Department, the median annual earnings of an American with an advanced degree is \$47,892. The median annual earnings for a U.S. worker with a bachelor's degree is \$35,776.

Pastors' pay compared

In a study comparing compensation of pastors in 13 state or regional Baptist conventions, Mississippi ranked seventh, providing an average of \$43,433 in total financial support for pastors.

Of the conventions studied, Georgia ranked first, with an average of \$47,525. Missouri ranked last, with a total financial support of \$40,079.

Total financial support includes salary, housing allowance, Social Security equivalent, insurance, and reimbursable expenses such as automobile, hospitality and conventions.

Though individual state conventions have done staff compensation studies in the past, this was the first joint study of the 13 participating conventions.

Kentucky Baptist Convention staffers Don Spencer and Guy Futral coordinated the effort.

Other findings of the study

The average annual salary of a full-time pastor participating in this study is \$33,125.

The average annual salary for a Mississippi pastor for 1996 is \$32,107. This figure comes from a survey of 205 full-time pastors conducted by the Church-Minister Relations and Annuity Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (See below for the 12-state salary comparison, and a related article concerning this survey.)

Spencer maintains that it is reasonable to compare the pay of ministers to the pay of other positions that require comparable education and experience.

However, it is important to make sure one is comparing compensation to compensation, Spencer added.

"Too often a (lay person) will compare the minister's total package, including all benefits, just to the compensation of what they're making or somebody they know is

making. They leave out the fact that the person has retirement and insurance paid on top of that," Spencer said.

For example, a school district may list the salary of a high school principal at \$40,000. The church budget may report spending \$40,000 as compensation to the pastor. Often that figure includes benefits such as annuity contributions and medical insurance premiums that are not included in the principal's reported salary.

Also, business related expenses should not be considered part of direct compensation, according to Spencer.

For example, an automobile allowance should be a reimbursement for the actual expense of operating a car required for the work of the ministry.

For a fair comparison, use the minister's actual paycheck (salary plus housing allowance only) to contrast against most

other non-clergy jobs, according to Spencer.

"Another misperception is that ministers don't pay taxes," Spencer said. "Their tax situation is different, but they do pay taxes through the nose just like anyone else," he added.

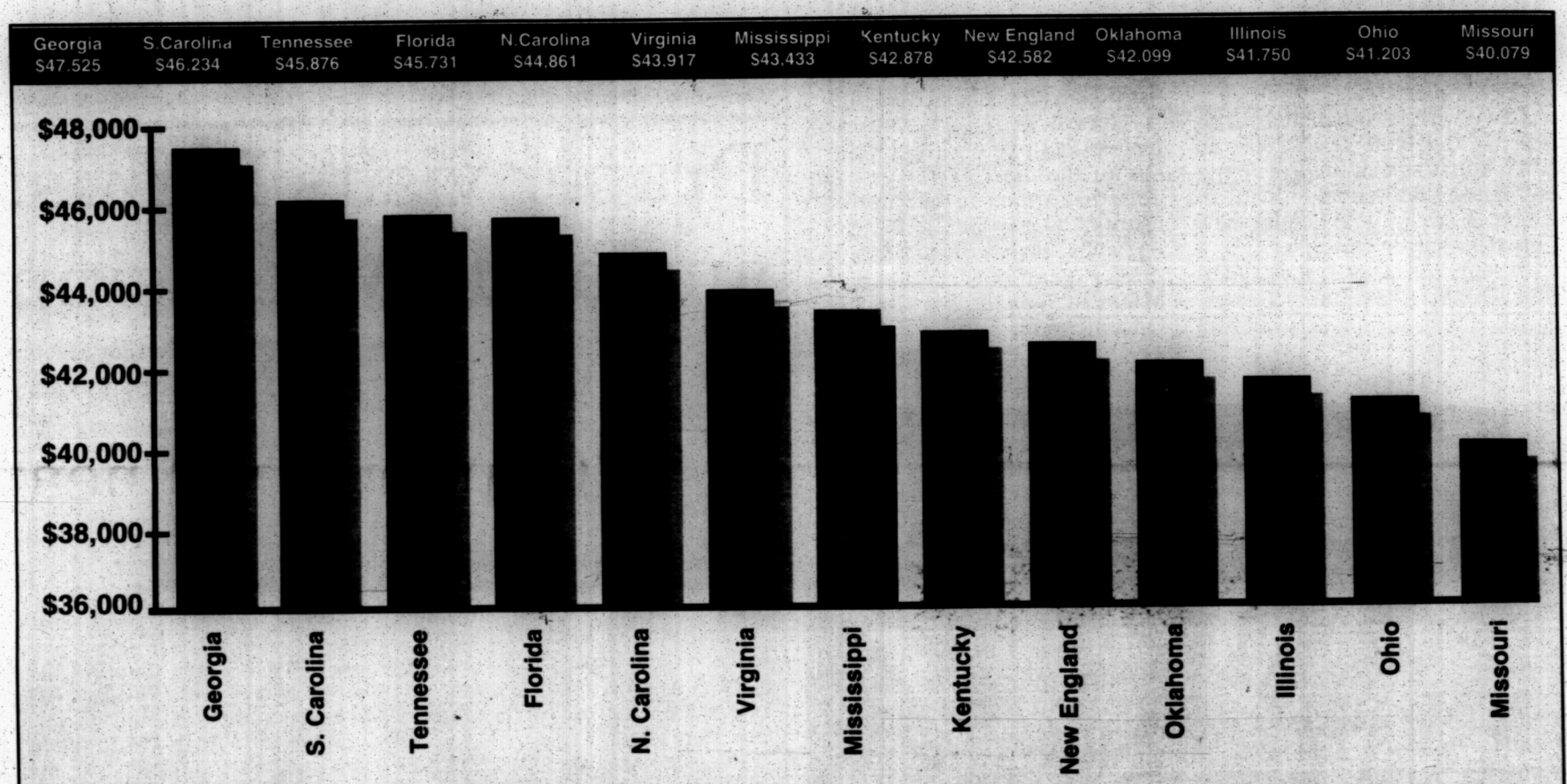
Many lay people also have the impression that ministers receive many non-monetary gifts from church members and businesses.

Spencer observes that these "ministerial discounts" aren't as common as they might have been.

"It happens, but not near as often anymore, particularly in metropolitan areas. And I'm sensing that in your medium-sized churches there's not very much of that either," Spencer said.

Such side benefits seem to be found on both extremes — small rural churches or very large churches.

(Information for this article comes from an ABP story by Mark Wingfield.)



include:

* Churches with budgets of \$50,000 or less pay a pastor an average of \$24,293 in total financial support.

* Churches with budgets of \$800,000 or more pay their pastors an average of \$86,620 in total financial support.

* Churches with an average budget of \$200,000 to \$300,000

RTVC president Johnson says no to NAMB presidential candidacy

The president of the SBC Radio and Television Commission (RTVC) said Sept. 9 he is not a candidate for president of the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

Jack Johnson, RTVC president since 1990, made the statement during a regularly scheduled trustees meeting at the commission's production center in Fort Worth, Texas.

"My primary focus is to serve in any way I can in the transition that merges the Brotherhood Commission, Home Mission Board, and RTVC into the new North American Mission Board," Johnson said.

"I think the NAMB presents the greatest opportunity in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention. It brings together unbelievable resources and focuses on evangelizing North America.

"With the NAMB, I think we now have the engine to drive evangelism in North America

through the next millennium. And, I think technology will play a major role in that evangelization," he said.

Johnson made reference to a letter he wrote to C.B. "Bill" Hogue, chairman of the NAMB incorporators and former executive director of Baptist work in California, in which he said: "I do not want to appear presumptuous, but I do want to inform you that I do not wish to be considered as a candidate for the position of president of the NAMB."

"In the infinitely small chance that someone might suggest my name, thank them for their kindness on my behalf and inform them that I am convinced that there are others more suited for the task. Assure your members that I will perform any duty assigned me by the NAMB except the position of president."

"I want to assure you that I personally will be in prayer for you

and the incorporators as you undertake one of the most crucial tasks ever assigned to a group in SBC history. I will also encourage our trustees to pray daily for the incorporators."

There are 13 incorporators — two trustees from each of the agencies that will be merged to form the new entity, and six at large members appointed by the Implementation Task Force and the chairman.

The incorporators are charged with the responsibility of developing the startup documents for the NAMB, including screening of candidates for the presidency to be presented to the NAMB trustees.

Trustees Ray Finch and Gary Underwood are the incorporators elected by RTVC trustees. Finch is founder and president of Lakeshore Food Systems of Tulsa, Okla. Underwood is director of media operations for the state of Arkansas.

New church compensation survey available

A study of staff salaries and benefits conducted by the Church-Minister Relations and Annuity Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is available to churches to aid in their budgeting process.

This study presents information concerning existing staff salaries in Mississippi Baptist churches for 1996.

The data comes from survey forms returned by 205 full-time pastors, 46 bivocational or student pastors, and 114 full-time

ministers other than pastors.

Churches can use this study to assist them in establishing equitable and adequate compensation for staff positions.

Copies of the 1996 Compensation Study are available by contacting the Church-Minister Relations and Annuity Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Thursday, September 19, 1996

Texas pastor Vestal to accept nomination as new CBF head

ATLANTA (BP)—Daniel Vestal will be nominated as Cecil Sherman's successor as coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, (CBF) a moderate organization formed in opposition to Southern Baptist Convention leadership five years ago.

Vestal, 51, pastor of Tallowood Church in Houston and one of CBF's initial organizers, will be voted on by the 84-member Coordinating Council during its Sept. 26-28 meeting in Atlanta.

Carolyn Crumpler, a former Woman's Missionary Union executive director who chaired the year-long search by an 11-member committee, told Associated Baptist Press, a moderate-related news service based in Jacksonville, Fla., that Vestal was the only candidate to receive the unanimous support of the committee.

Sherman retired in July.

ABP reported members of the Coordinating Council were notified of the committee's recommendation by mail Sept. 6, the same day the CBF's Atlanta staff was told, while Vestal was scheduled to inform his church of the nomination Sept. 8. The Associat-

ed Baptist Press story, dated Sept. 6, was released Sept. 9.

Vestal, a Texas native, is a former pastor of Atlanta's Dunwoody Church before he accepted the Houston pastorate in 1991. He also is a former pastor of First Church, Midland, Texas.

ABP reported Vestal turned down the CBF job when it was offered to him in February then, according to Crumpler, asked her to be reconsidered during the CBF general assembly in June.

ABP quoted Vestal as explaining: "I don't think any one thing changed my mind. It was a process that just took some time for me. ... The will of God has always been an unfolding experience for me."

Leaving pastoral ministry after 27 years was "part of the struggle" in accepting the CBF job, Vestal told ABP. "The pastorate is not just a position; it is a way of life. Yet I'm facing this task with a great deal of joy that God is leading me in a new direction."

Vestal, a member of the Peace Committee in the mid-1980s, ran for SBC president in 1989 and 1990, then turned to launching

organizational efforts for what became the CBF. He chaired the CBF's interim steering committee and served on the search committee that hired Sherman in 1992.

Vestal is a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Seminary. He and his wife Earlene have three children.

Vestal told ABP Sept. 5 he is not willing to talk about his vision for the CBF until the Coordinating Council has a chance to hear it. He acknowledged one key to its future will be developing a younger generation of Baptists, ABP reported.

ABP reported seven people were interviewed during the CBF search process: Vestal; Pat Anderson, a college professor from Lakeland, Fla., and former CBF moderator; Hardy Clemons, pastor of First Church, Greenville, S.C., and a former CBF moderator; Greg Hunt, pastor of Holmeswood Church, Kansas City, Mo.; Gary Parker of Atlanta, Baptist principles coordinator for the Fellowship; John Tyler, a telecommunications executive from St. Louis; and Scott Walker, pastor of First Church, Waco, Texas.

Mississippi set to receive \$16,302 as SBC arson fund nears \$500,000

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Ohio became the 15th state convention to receive funds from the Southern Baptist Convention's "Arson Fund" with the distribution of an additional \$177,198 Sept. 5, bringing the total to nearly \$471,000.

The "Arson Fund" assists African American churches victimized by arsonists. Like the initial distribution July 3 of \$246,712 to 12 state conventions and \$50,000 on Aug. 2 to 14 conventions, the Sept. 5 distribution is based on a formula developed by

the Inter-Agency Council's Racial Reconciliation Task Force.

The "Arson Fund" was begun from an offering taken at the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans in June. That offering came at the request of then-SBC President Jim Henry, an Orlando, Fla., pastor, and initially raised \$282,000 in pledges and cash gifts. Most of the gifts since then have been from SBC-related churches wanting to assist in the rebuilding of the burned churches, according to Jack Wilkerson, SBC Executive

Committee vice president for business and finance.

More than 87 African American churches, most in the Southeast, have burned in the last 18 months, primarily as the result of arsonists. SBC officials said the formula of distribution is based on an in-hand count of arson-related African American church fires in the state as a percentage of the total number of churches impacted nationally.

"The desire of Southern Baptists to participate in rebuilding these churches is a vivid testimony to their willingness to want to help in this time of need," Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the Executive Committee, which distributes the funds.

The September distribution of \$177,198 went to: Alabama, \$14,353; Arizona, \$1,949; Arkansas, \$12,226; Florida, \$6,201; Georgia, \$4,075; Louisiana, \$18,251; Mississippi, \$16,302; North Carolina, \$16,302; Oklahoma, \$1,949; Ohio, \$1,949; South Carolina, \$34,553; Tennessee, \$16,302; Texas, \$24,807; Virginia, \$4,075; and Northwest (Oregon-Washington), \$3,898.

Donations to the SBC Arson Fund may be sent to state Baptist convention offices or the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce St., Nashville, TN 37203.

To send donations directly to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), make the check out to "Church Rebuilding Fund" and mail to MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, Ms 39205-0530.

God's Plan for Your Life

God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.

I am come that they might have life, and that they have it more abundantly — John 10:10

However, you might not be experiencing the abundant life because sin creates a separation between you and God's plan for your life.

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God — Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death — Romans 6:23a

Human efforts to end this separation, such as living a good life or various religions, all fail. There is only one solution. Jesus Christ is God's answer to this separation.

But God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us — Romans 5:8

He is our way to God.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me" — John 14:6

A person must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior to find and experience God's wonderful plan.

But as many received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name — John 1:12

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast — Ephesians 2:8,9

How to receive Christ:

1. Admit your need for God.

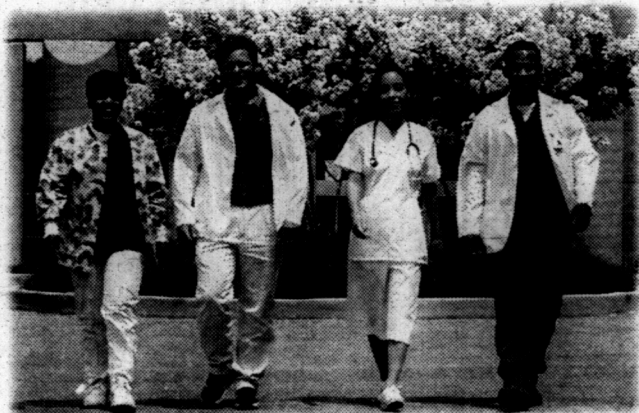
2. Be willing to repent (turn away from) your sins.

3. Believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins and rose from the grave.

4. Through prayer, invite Jesus to come into your life.

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact your local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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Margaret Lackey State Offering provides support for Mississippi State BSU international ministry

By Carl M. White

Hanah Khatabeh pushes a baby stroller up the sidewalk to the front door of the Crossroads International Friendship House in Starkville.

She and her one-year-old daughter Jana will find not only refreshments, friendship, and vital information that will help her learn how to live in the United States while her husband attends



Maxine Edwards, member of First Church, Starkville, manages the nursery during the monthly international wives meeting at the Crossroads International Friendship House in Starkville.

classes at Mississippi State University (MSU), but also a witness in the name of Jesus Christ.

Crossroads International Friendship House is a joint ministry of the Golden Triangle Association, the Baptist Student Union (BSU) of MSU, and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

The ministry is under the leadership of Diana Bridges. This year, the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering includes a \$4,000 allocation for this ministry.

Crossroads House had its beginning because of a concern about transportation. The BSU at MSU had a weekly international hour on Fridays as part of a long-running ministry to international students.

Diana Bridges, as the intern in international ministry, was seeking to find more ways to witness to and meet the needs of the spouses and children of international students.

The BSU building was all the way across the campus from where the majority of these families live.

Bill Duncan, Director of Missions for Golden Triangle Association, heard about Diana's concern and asked what might be done.

"She told me there was a building near Aiken Village," Duncan recalled.

Aiken Village is a MSU married student housing complex that is over 60% internationals.

Formerly a pizza delivery business, the building near Aiken Village is next door to a Moslem mosque.

"It was an ideal location that would give the international ministry a visible presence in the heart of the international community," Duncan said.

The rent was high, but Duncan was able to convince area churches to pitch in over \$12,000 for 1995.

In January of that year the lease was signed. In March, the Crossroads International Friendship House was born.

"The location of the building is a perfect example of how God really provided this ministry," said Diana Bridges, director of the ministry.

"We could not have done this in a church. Many internationals have religious and social customs that would prevent them from entering a church building, and the BSU was too far away," she said.

How Bridges came to live in Starkville is also an example of how God has directed this ministry.

A native of San Antonio, Texas and a Baylor graduate, Diana attended Golden Gate Seminary in San Francisco because she was interested in missions. At one time she considered a call to foreign missions.

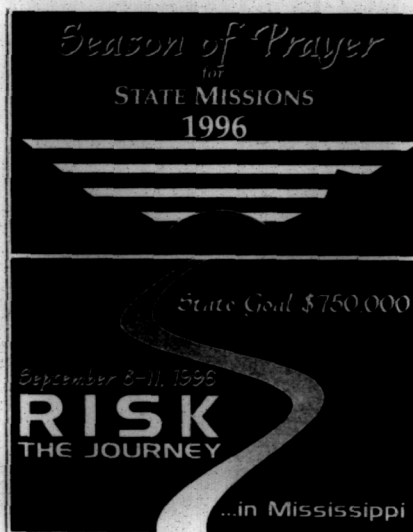
While attending a California Baptist church, she met David

Bridges, a native of Philadelphia, Miss., and a doctoral student at California Institute of Technology.

After they were married, David received a job offer from MSU.

Ken Watkins, BSU director at MSU, received a phone call one day from the school of engineering.

"They had this new professor they were bringing in whose wife was interested in doing ministry. They wanted to know if I had a job for her," Watkins said.



"Of course, I didn't have any kind of paid position. Soon I was getting letters from some folks telling me that Diana Bridges was coming to our campus and that she was really good at working with internationals," Watkins said.

Not long after that, Jerry Merri-man, MBCB Director of Student Work, indicated some funds were available for an internship in international ministry.

"The Lord just brought this all together," said Watkins.

International ministry is not new to the Starkville area. The BSU has been ministering to internationals for many years.

First Church, Starkville has been reaching out to international students and their families for 28 years, according to Racheal Rose, a volunteer from First Church.

One ministry has been the international wives group, a monthly meeting of volunteers from the Starkville church and the spouses of international students.

During the course of a year each meeting emphasizes a different theme, such as cooking American style, understanding Thanksgiving traditions, and Christmas customs.

The monthly meetings also provide an avenue for international women to practice their English and for church volunteers to develop witnessing relationships.

"Witnessing to internationals is a slow process," according to Bridges.

"First, you have to win their friendship. Then, you must identify those who have an interest in spiritual matters," she said.

When the time is right, they are given Bibles in their native languages. There are several Bible study opportunities, both one-on-one and group studies.

Recently, three women left the

university for other schools in the states. All three had confessed Christ and been baptized in a local church, Bridges recalled.

They go from Starkville with Christ in their hearts and to the world as a witness.

"I don't think we can claim credit for these salvations," she said. "We get to be part of what God is doing in their lives."

"Right here in the Bible Belt I get to tell people about Jesus for the very first time. When you look at who we are ministering to, I have direct contact with World A peoples," Bridges said.

World A is a reference to the one-fourth of humanity that has never heard the Gospel.

Geographically, World A people are clustered in a belt extending from North Africa and central Asia.

Many of these countries and language groups have students attending colleges and universities in the United States.

MSU attracts a large number of foreign students and World A students, because of its agricultural and engineering schools, according to Watkins.

Another significant ministry of Crossroads is working with international children.

This summer they had their first summer missionary. Melanie Tiffin planned activities throughout the summer for the international children.

A native of Starkville, Tiffin is a student at MSU. She did not even have to leave home this summer to be involved in summer missions.

All summer long she planned field trips, showed movies, and generally played with the children.

A church group from West Point conducted a Back Yard Bible Club at Aiken Village.

Tiffin even took them fishing.

"The children were so proud of the fish they each caught. They wrapped the fish and put them in their freezers," she said.

Tiffin's work was so successful during the summer months

that the sponsors decided to continue her work into the fall semester.

Bridges dreams of learning to speak Chinese, Arabic, and German.

"When I can greet them in their own language, it shows how much respect I have for them," she said.



Melanie Tiffin (left) and Diana Bridges lead the ministry at the Crossroads International Friendship House in Starkville. Tiffin served as a summer missionary and is continuing her work with international children this fall. Bridges is director of the ministry and the international intern at the Baptist Student Union on the Mississippi State University campus. (Photos by Carl White)

"There is a place for Mississippi Baptists to be involved in ministries to internationals," Bridges said.

"There are over 500,000 international students and scholars in the United States. There are internationals in every city. If Christians could just catch a vision of this, it would impact the world for Christ," she said.

Through Diana Bridges, Melanie Tiffin and the Crossroads International Friendship House, Baptists in Mississippi are helping bring the world to Jesus.



Grace (Hui-ping) Chen (left) and Sherry Teh (right), both of Taiwan, enjoy fellowship with Racheal Rose, a volunteer from First Church, Starkville.



Hanah Khatabeh and her daughter Jana, of Jordan, attend the monthly international wives meeting at the Crossroads International Friendship House. Jana was about to celebrate her first birthday.

Conservatives set to organize in Tenn. Baptist Convention

LOUISVILLE, Tenn. (ABP) — Alleging a "conspiracy" to stack leadership of the Tennessee Baptist Convention with moderates, a group of ministers has formed an organization to bolster the influence of conservatives in the 1.1 million-member state convention.

Ministers in Chilhowee Association in East Tennessee recently formed a "Conservative Baptist Alliance" and circulated a letter in July encouraging others to join their cause.

The letter, signed by Charles Bailey, the group's president, and Guy Milam, vice president, alleged "overwhelming dominance" of the state convention's boards and agencies by moderates, and particularly by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF).

Bailey, pastor of Laurel Bank Church in Louisville, and Milam, pastor of Springview Church in Maryville, analyzed membership on governing boards of the state convention and its agencies between 1984 and 1994. Of the 94 churches that provided the largest number of leaders during that period, 41 supported the Fellowship, either directly or by allowing individual members an option of designating their offerings to the moderate organization, they said.

Only 67 of the almost 3,000 Tennessee Baptist churches support the Fellowship, Bailey and Milam said. The Fellowship is an organization formed in 1991 by moderates after conservatives drove them from power in the 16 million member Southern Baptist Convention.

A spokesperson for the Atlanta-based Fellowship said 64 churches in Tennessee gave to the

Fellowship in 1995. So far this year, 59 Tennessee Baptist churches have contributed, the spokesperson said.

"We are not being critical of churches who support the CBF," Bailey and Milam's letter said. "Individual churches have that right and many conservatives support non-Southern Baptist programs. Neither are we claiming misconduct nor implying anything unethical."

"We are merely saying that we have different views and that we would like to see these more conservative views represented."

The ministers said their goal is to change a bylaw that would allow the state convention president greater appointive powers.

Currently, nomination to leadership posts is handled through a committee process.

"The president of the Southern Baptist Convention has appointive powers and for the past several years we attended the Southern Baptist Convention because we knew that our votes would make a difference," they said. "The same thing can happen in our state convention."

James Porch, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, was unavailable for comment. Ken Hubbard, the state convention's president and pastor of First Church in Smyrna, said he had not had any direct contact with the conservative group and declined to comment.



Hungarian anniversary

Jerry Rankin (standing, right), president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, speaks through interpreter John Hunter (standing, left) to a mid-August crowd of 5,000 Hungarians gathered at a Baptist encampment outside Budapest for the 150th anniversary of Baptist work in Hungary. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

BR publishes deadlines

"The Baptist Record" (BR) posts the following deadlines:
For news items: deadline is Thursday noon prior to the following Thursday's publication. Example: in order for an item to appear in the Oct. 3 issue, it must be received in the BR office by noon on Sept. 26.

The item must be typed or written clearly (with all pertinent facts included), and submitted by mail. Include a contact name and phone number in case a question arises.

Photographs should also be submitted by mail. People and activities depicted in the photo should be clearly described and identified. Black and white photos are preferred; high-contrast, well-lit color photos are acceptable. Polaroid photos do not reproduce well and should be avoided.

For advertisements to appear in paid advertising space, deadline is two weeks prior to the desired publication date. Example: in order to be included in the Oct. 3 issue, an ad should be reserved with the advertising coordinator by noon on Sept. 26.

Ad material should be sent to the BR office at least five days prior to publication.

For church announcements, special "churches" camera-ready pages are due to the Jackson office by noon on Tuesday prior to the Thursday publication. Example: for the Oct. 3 edition, churches should have their announcements by noon, Oct. 1. Churches who request camera-ready pages by the deadline should have them ready to be sent to the Jackson office by noon, Oct. 1. Churches who request camera-ready pages by the deadline should have them ready to be sent to the Jackson office by noon, Oct. 1.

For more information, contact "The Baptist Record" at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205; (601) 748-1651; or (601) 968-3800, free outside Jackson.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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JCAQXL ETX: KCDJ

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Three Sixteen.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

My four-year-old niece acts out sexually, but her parents say it's just kid stuff. I'm worried; what should I do?

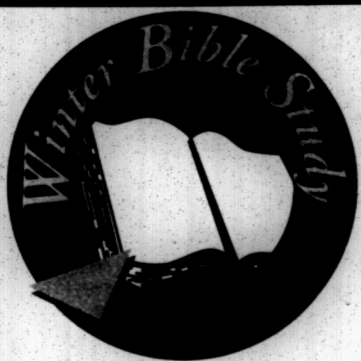
Interest in sexuality is not uncommon in four-year-olds, who are becoming more verbal and experimental as they learn about their surroundings. Every part of their bodies is examined, including their genitalia. Before going too far in drawing conclusions, determine what she is taking into her mind. What is she watching on television? What does she see older siblings watching on television? What videos and magazines are in her home? Even so-called "ladies" magazines today use sex to sell. You should be concerned if she exhibits sexual behavior on a consistent basis or makes such statements as, "I don't want to go there," or "I don't want to see him (or her)." When those alarm bells go off, her parents and you should determine if

something more than her own childish curiosity is occurring.

I think it's intolerant to believe some people won't go to Heaven. If your God is a loving God, won't he accept everyone?

Of course he accepts everyone. He loves us so much that he allowed his only son to be subjected to cruel death in order to save us from our sin. The question, therefore, is whether we will accept him. God allows each of us to choose to follow him, or to go our own way. God is not a year-round Santa Claus with free giveaways, but he is a loving Father who gives each of his children the opportunity to come to him by asking into their hearts his precious, sacrificed son — Jesus Christ. If you are not a Christian, ask a pastor or Christian friend how you can receive salvation through Jesus and begin a daily walk with God. Do it now; your eternal life depends on your decision.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



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- ◆Join us for an exciting look at God's Word for us today.

DATE: *Monday, September 30

**Tuesday, October 1

**Wednesday, October 2

**Thursday, October 3

Blue Mountain College
Paschal Student Center

Delta State University
BSU Center

Mississippi College
B.C. Rodgers Student Center

William Carey College
Thomas Business Building



David Dockery



Wayne VanHorn

*Led by Dr. David Dockery president of Union University, Jackson, Tennessee
**Led by Dr. Wayne VanHorn, pastor, First Baptist Church, Columbia

TIME: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

COST: None

LUNCH: Complimentary of respective host school and MBCB Sunday School Department.

NO RESERVATION REQUIRED

For more information, contact Larry Salter, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Sunday School Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205; phone (800) 748-1651 or (601) 968-3800.

Revival Dates

Salem, Tylertown: Sept. 22-25; Sunday, 10:50 a.m., noon meal, and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ron Burch, Columbia, evangelist; Carl Smith, Tylertown, music; Jim Pender, pastor.

Bowlin, Sallis: Sept. 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and lunch; 7:30 p.m. nightly; Thomas Wicker, Sallis, evangelist; Cathy Bishop, pianist; V. B. Keith, music; Willie Bishop, pastor.

Green's Creek, Petal: Sept. 22-25; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Johnny Tucker, Citronelle, Ala., evangelist; Mike Routon, pastor.

Bethel, Drew: Sept. 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Thomas Bruce, Philipp, evangelist; Vern and Marylou Bailey, Cleveland, music; Larry Choucolli, pastor.

Antioch, Union: Sept. 26; "Harvest night," 7 p.m.; Junior Hill, evangelist; Wayne Bishop, Meridian, music; James Young, pastor.

Bethany, Prentiss: Sept. 29-Oct. 4; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Clay Chancellor, Ft. Worth, Texas, evangelist; Bob Harris, D'Lo, music; Darren K. Wigington, pastor.

East Louisville, Louisville: Sept. 29-Oct. 4; 7 p.m. nightly; Grady Crowell, evangelist; Paul Eaves, music; David Jay, pastor.

Willow Grove, Collins: Sept. 22-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. worship, lunch in fellowship hall, and 1 p.m. worship; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; James E. Messer, Theodore, Ala., evangelist; Bob Thames, music; Billy Purser, pastor.

North Columbia, Columbia: Sept. 22-26; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; W. D. "Step" Martin, Shreveport, La., evangelist; Otmer Horn, Cantonment, Fla., music; Philip Duncan, pastor.

Southway, Brookhaven: Oct. 6-11; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; The Hill Family, preaching and singing; James (Danny) Dodds, pastor.

Homecomings

Hope, Philadelphia: Sept. 22; 11 a.m.; noon meal; 1:30 p.m. singing with Heaven Bound, Philadelphia; Wayne Burkes, Clinton, evangelist; Jimmy Young, pastor.

Ingram, Baldwin: Sept. 29; 11 a.m.; covered dish; 1:30 p.m. singing with The Singing Deckers, The Crawfords, and Forgiven; Wallace Pannell, Baldwin, evangelist; Clayton Littlejohn, pastor.

Antioch, Union: Sept. 29; 11 a.m.; noon meal; 1:30 p.m. singing; William Carey College choir, guest singers; James Gibson, Robertsedale, Ala., guest speaker; James Young, pastor.

Prentiss, Prentiss: Sept. 29; 11 a.m.; noon meal; 6 p.m.; Dick Baker, Duluth, Ga., guest speaker; Randall Rich, pastor.

First, Pecan Grove: Sept. 29, old-fashioned homecoming; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch; Billy Ingram, pastor.

Grace Chapel, Brooklyn: Sept. 22; 40th anniversary; services, 11 a.m., lunch followed by song service and preaching; C.O. Creelm founding pastor, T.W. Kendall pastor.

Names in the News

Clebe McClary of Pawleys Island, S.C., will speak on Sept. 22 at Spring Field Church, Morton, 6:45 p.m. and First Church, Raleigh, 8:30 p.m. While serving in Vietnam, 1967-68, as a platoon leader, 1st reconnaissance battalion, 1st Marine division, suffering severe injuries, (losing both his left arm and eye), McClary continued to lead his men. As a result of his bravery, he received the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and three Purple Hearts.

First Church, Vicksburg, recently held a commissioning service for **Vicki Vance.** She is going to Nairobi, Kenya, as a missionary with the Foreign Vance Mission Board's International Service Corps.

Jack Follis, who served on the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC) Pastoral Care staff, has been awarded a Merrill Fellowship from Harvard Divinity School and the Boston Theological Institute. Follis, a Texas native, holds a doctorate in Pastoral Care and Counseling and a master's in Theology from New Orleans Seminary. Prior to coming to MBMC, he served for 23 years as chaplain of East Mississippi State Hospital in Meridian. He is former pastor of Lakeshore Church in Hancock County.

Mark Pilgrim, son of Barron and Jean Pilgrim, was ordained to the ministry at Carson Ridge Church, Ethel, on Jan. 28. He and his wife, the former **Lisa Pilgrim Thrash** of Philadelphia, were called as pastor and youth director of Carson Ridge.

First Church, Kosciusko, held a deacon ordination service for **Bill Walker** on Sept. 8.

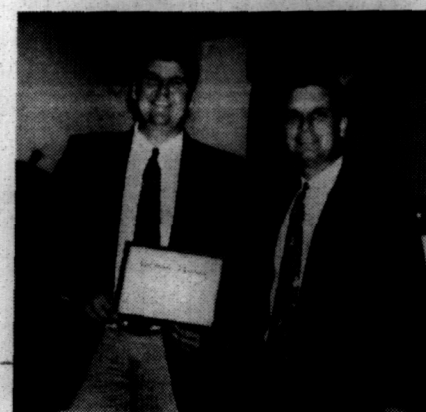
Mississippian **Joe Lunceford,** professor of religion at Georgetown College in Georgetown, Ky., has retired from the U.S. Air Force after 41 years of active and reserve service. He received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Mississippi College, a bachelor of divinity in theology from New Orleans Seminary, and a doctorate in New Testament from Baylor University. Lunceford served as pastor of four churches in Mississippi between 1960 and 1966.

James Sclater of Clinton, professor of music at Mississippi College, has been chosen by the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) as a recipient of an ASCAP Award

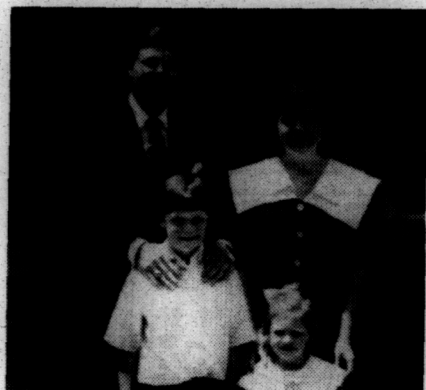


for the 1996-97 school year. The yearly awards are granted by an independent panel and are based upon the unique prestige value of each writer's catalog of original compositions as well as the recent performance activity of those works in areas not surveyed by the Society.

Martin Cuellar, instructor of piano at William Carey College, will perform works by the Spanish composer Enrique Granados, Sept. 24, at 7 p.m., in Dumas L. Smith Auditorium. For more information, contact the Music Department at (601) 582-6175.



Justin Busby was recently licensed to the ministry at Calvary Church, Corinth. Warren H. Jones is pastor.



First Church, Pontotoc, held a Pastor Appreciation Day for **W. H. Sims and family.** Testimonies were given, flowers presented, and gifts shared.

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COPIAH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION is taking resumes for a part time Director of Missions. If interested, send resume to: Copiah Baptist Association, P.O. Box 210, Hazlehurst, MS 39083. Deadline for receiving resumes is October 10, 1996.

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Missionary News

Alvin and Elizabeth Bailey, missionaries to Guatemala, are on the field (address: Apartado 22, 09901, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala). He is a native of Milledgeville, Ga. The former Elizabeth Walker was born in Jackson, and considers Ripley her hometown.

Larry and Alicia Braswell, missionaries to Brazil, have completed language study and arrived on their field of service (address: Caixa Postal 61, 89.802-970 Chapeco, SC, Brazil). He was born in Lake Charles, La., and considers Boyle his hometown. The former Alicia Sellers was born in Vicksburg and considers Brandon her hometown.

Robert and Donna Burris, missionaries to Taiwan, are on the field (address: Rwei Bei Rd., #62, 14F, Chyan Jen District, Kaohsiung 806, Taiwan ROC). He is a native of Dallas, Texas. The former Donna Cope was born in Newton, and considers Birmingham her hometown.

Tony and Karen Gray, missionaries to Brazil, are in the States (address: P.O. Box 181, Leakesville, Miss. 39451). He was born in Mobile, Ala., and considers Moss Point his hometown. The former Karen Burns was born in Waynesboro, and considers Wagarville, Ala., her hometown.

James and Brenda Hearn, missionaries to Togo, are in the States (address: 425 Ford St., Columbia,

Miss. 39429). He is a native of Corinth and she is the former Brenda Hunt of Bogalusa, La.

David and Robin Johnson, missionaries to Japan, are in the States (address: 470 Park Ave., Birmingham, Ala. 35226). He was born in East Tallassee, Ala., and also lived in Renton, Wash., and Montgomery, Ala. She is the former Robin Parks of Columbus.

Robert and Janice Mooney, missionaries to Uganda, are in the States (address: 615 Lauah St., Pineville, La. 71360). He was born in Marvell, Ark., and considers Jackson his hometown. The former Janice Anglin was born in Bogalusa, La., and considers Talisheek, La., her hometown.

Hugh and Debbie Redmon, missionaries to Venezuela, are on the field (address: Apartado 3588, El Trigal, Valencia, Carabobo, Venezuela 2002-A). Son of Southern Baptist missionaries in Costa Rica, he was born in Jackson and considers San Jose, Costa Rica, his hometown. Daughter of missionaries to the Ivory Coast, she was born in Fort Worth, Texas, and considers Abidjan, Ivory Coast, her hometown.

Stanley and Glenna Stamps, missionaries to Honduras, are in the States (501 N. Pleasant St., Hillsboro, Texas 76645). He is a native of Prentiss and she is the former Glenna Morgan of Hill County, Texas.

Keith and Penny Stamps, missionaries to Nicaragua, are in the States (address: 108 S. 17th Ave., Hattiesburg, Miss. 39401). Son of Southern Baptist missionaries, he lived in several states and countries, but considers Clinton his hometown. The former Penny Turner, daughter of Southern Baptist missionary associates, lived in several countries and considers Dallas, Texas, her hometown.

Mary Jo Stewart, missionary to Kenya, is on the field (address: P.O. Box 30405, Nairobi, Kenya). A native of Caesar, she was executive secretary of the Arizona Woman's Missionary Union, Phoenix, at the time of her appointment in 1972.

Lee and Phyllis Walker, missionaries to Chile, are in the States (address: 107 Frederick, Brandon, Miss. 39042). Born in Texarkana, Ark., he considers Little Rock his hometown. The former Phyllis Orr of Louisiana, was born in Monroe and considers New Orleans her hometown.

Mississippi College Office of Continuing Education will be offering a review course for the National Teachers Exam (NTE). The four-day review will be held each Saturday, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, and 19 from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Jennings Hall on campus. For registration call Shaun Hand at 925-3264.

capsules

BIVOCATIONAL PASTOR WINS SUIT OVER WORK ON SUNDAY: BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (BP)—Western Kentucky University has been ordered to pay \$5,000 in damages plus back pay to a bivocational minister who was fired from the university's staff when he refused to work on Sundays. The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights ruled June 20 in favor of Alfred Cook, a former plumber for the university who also serves as pastor of two rural Baptist congregations. The commission further ordered the university to reinstate Cook's employment. Western Kentucky University filed an appeal, expected to take several months.

MORATORIUM ON GAMBLING URGED, PENDING STUDY: DALLAS (BP)—Lawmakers should declare a moratorium on any expansion of legalized gambling until the results of a national study on gambling's impact are known, according to a spokesman for Texans Against Gambling. Richard Blankenship, consultant with the anti-gambling coalition, called for the moratorium while on a week-long speaking tour of a half-dozen Texas cities with Tom Grey, field coordinator for the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling. Grey, a United Methodist minister and Vietnam combat veteran who was nicknamed "Riverboat Rambo" for his role in fighting riverboat casino gambling in his native Illinois, compared anti-gambling activists to "Gideon's army" in the Old Testament.

TEXAS BAPTIST EDUCATOR NOMINATED FOR CBF POST: ATLANTA (ABP) — Texas Baptist educator Terry Hamrick will be nominated as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's first coordinator of church resources. Hamrick, 46, is currently minister of education at Broadway Church in Fort Worth, Texas, a post he has held since 1990. Previously, he worked nine years as minister of education at First Church in Decatur, Ga., and at two churches in Kentucky.

Just for the Record

Mississippi College (MC) and Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc., are jointly offering "The Personal Financial Management Workshop," scheduled for Sept. 24, from 6-9 p.m. and Sept. 28, from 9 a.m.-12 noon, in Room AV1 of the Learning Resources Center in the MC Library. Roger Davis, an account broker with Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc., will be the instructor. The cost of the workshop is \$30 per person or \$35 per couple. For registration call Shaun Hand at 925-3264.

Lay Renewal Weekend will be held at Beulah Church, Decatur, Sept. 20-22. Services will be held on Friday from 6:30-9:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 6:30-9:30 p.m.; and regular times will be observed on Sunday. There will be group sessions and activities for adults, youth, and children. Byron Howell is pastor.

Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove, will recognize its 149th anniversary of the church with a homecoming day celebration on Sunday, Sept. 22, during the morning services. Joe Abel, director of

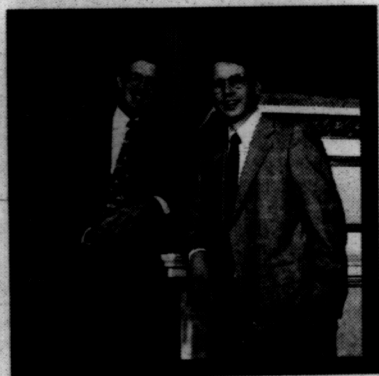
missions, Leake Association, will be preaching. Activities include High Attendance Day in Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; morning worship at 10:30 a.m.; and lunch in fellowship hall. For more information, contact John H. Pace Jr., pastor, at P. O. Box 363, Walnut Grove, MS 39189. Telephone: (601) 253-2391 or 253-2040.

First Church, Magnolia, will host Jubilation Quartet and The Gulf City Boys in a gospel singing on Oct. 6 at 6 p.m.

New Orleans Seminary will offer Biblical studies beginning Monday, Oct. 14, 7-9 p.m., at Broadmoor Church, Jackson. Jack Glaze, retired professor to the seminary, will teach the first course, "Introduction to The New Testament." This will be the first of eight 8-week courses to be offered through the Church Leadership Certificate Program of the seminary.

An enrollment fee of \$25 is charged. Each eight-week course costs \$75. Persons completing eight prescribed courses will receive a Bible teaching Certificate from the seminary. This program should be of particular interest to Sunday School teachers and others who want to become more skilled in teaching the word.

For more information, call Ruth Moore or Larry Garner, metro Association office at (601) 362-8676.



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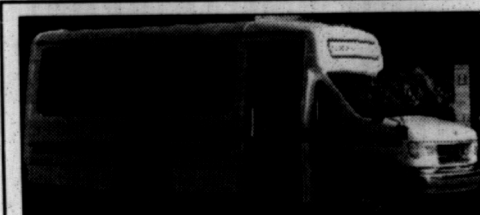


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Uniform Confronting hypocrisy



By Jim Phillips
Jeremiah 7

The story is told about the duck church. The flock waddled in from the field, strutted to their places and scooted into their pews. They quacked with the music and flapped their wings with excitement. The duck preacher preached on how they should all be like eagles and soar above the heavenlies. The quacking of amens filled the church. Every duck agreed that was exactly the way God meant for them to be. When church was dismissed, they all scooted back to the floor and waddled home the exact same way they were when they came.

So much of what we call church activity is nothing more than religious energy. We sense a Sunday urge to put on our Sunday clothes, drive our Sunday drive, sit in our Sunday spot, talk our Sunday talk and sing our Sunday songs. Oftentimes, by early in the afternoon we're yelling at the kids, running down the government, lusting after what we see on T.V., and scheming about how we can get ahead in another week. The walk or waddle stays about the same.

Jeremiah was a man called to preach a possible word to an impossible people (vv. 1-2). These were God's folk who already knew by experience what it was like to live under the luxurious grace of God. They had been so blessed of God that the effects were rendering them spiritually inept and morally bankrupt (vv. 9-10). They were taking advantage of God's goodness by getting soft on their commitments to him while getting fat on sin.

Jeremiah's sermon contained God's directives for his people who were coming to the temple for worship. Though they should have been attending for the purpose of worship and edification, instead they were taking a time out from their sinful ways. They had no intention of leaving their wrongful behavior. They thought that as long as they showed up and went through the motions, anything they did after the event would pass right over God's head. God however made it very clear to the people that he was fully aware of their motives and intentions in worship (v. 11).

The truth of Jeremiah is needed just as much in our day. It does matter to God how we treat others and how we relate to the populace around us (vv. 5-7). This is so very true especially for those whose behavior should be impacted by their involvement in their church. The greatest scourge on Christians specifically and the church in general is how outsiders gauge them both. More and more we live in a world where it's virtually impossible to tell the Christian from the pagan.

Jeremiah was proclaiming that God was about to judge their hypocrisy. He was demanding repentance and not religion. If they were not responsive following God's warning, the end result would be ruin instead of reward. They had come to take God for granted and believed his patience to be without end. They were about to discover otherwise. He was about to make them an example of his judgement. If they could not see the potential ruin of their ways and repent, then they would become the next exhibit of what happens to a people who have lost their way.

When we assemble in our churches week after week, we must know that we're not there to make an appearance but an appeal. The sanctuary is there to purposely separate us from the clamor of the world so as to get in tune with God. His Word and our worship are to accomplish a righting of our wrongs and a redirecting of our wayward ways. We come to place ourselves upon the altar of his mercy and grace. We enter into his Presence so that we will not experience his absence in the coming days. To leave and act as though he never spoke and we never worshiped, is to practice the height of hypocrisy.

It does matter to God how we behave. Just as in Judah's day, we're to live distinctively different from the world around us. May it never be said that our churches are a dim example of a once shining light. Combat hypocrisy by living above the world and in obedience to the Word of God. Repent, reform, renew, and revive!

Phillips is pastor, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.

Bible Book Millennium and judgment



By Ronald Bishop
Revelation 20

Defeat of the Dragon (20:1-3). Following the defeat of the beast and the false prophet (representatives of the Roman Empire), John envisioned the defeat of the dragon, identified as Satan. John was interested not only in the defeat of the worldly powers, but also the power behind the Roman government, the evil one himself.

An angel came from heaven holding the key to the bottomless pit. We have already seen this pit in chapter 9. It is the place from which the terrible, scorpion-like creatures issued forth to afflict God's enemies. Now the bottomless pit becomes the abode of the Devil, who is bound by the angel and thrown into the pit for a thousand years. It is a mystery why the Devil is not immediately thrown into the fiery pit along with the beast and the false prophet. Why he is not completely dominated and punished is not explained. John only tells us that the Devil's career will be interrupted for a millennium and that he will later be loosed for a while.

Life From Death (20:4-6). Then John saw the thrones upon which were seated those who would judge all peoples and nations. He also saw present at the judgment those who had died because of their faith in Christ. What happened to them is significant. "They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years." John's readers were completely dominated by the mighty Roman power. The Christians constantly were under the threat of injury or death by their oppressors. John wanted his readers to know that when God elected to intervene, the tables would be turned. The Christians who had been killed would come to life and reign with Christ for the thousand-year period of the Devil's bondage. Now the Christians would help to judge the Romans who had stood in power over them. Who is it who comes back to life? Those "who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their forehead or their hands"—Christians who had remained faithful to God. These Christians participate in the first resurrection, the one reserved for God's people.

Final Defeat (20:7-10). After the thousand years, the Devil is loosed to deceive all the nations once again. The nations gather for battle with soldiers whose numbers can be compared only to the sand of the sea. The battle lines are drawn, and it seems that God's people are in trouble until God himself sends fire from heaven to devour the enemies. The battle is over and the devil now is thrown into the lake of fire along with the beast and the false prophet.

Final Judgment (20:11-15). Once again John sees a throne of judgment. The vivid scene portrays the dead standing before God to have their eternal destiny declared. The key to their destinies is their deeds that are recorded in the books. Everyone is present, even those whose bodies were lost at sea. This judgment brings an end even to Death and Hades, who are thrown into the lake of fire. In case anyone missed John's point, he clarified it in v. 15: "if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

Chapter 20 brings to a conclusion the conflict that has been present throughout the book of Revelation. In every generation there are those who oppose God and take their hatred out on God's people. Sometimes those enemies defy the sacred conscience of men and women and demand that they surrender their utmost devotion to God in favor of some other allegiance. When this demand is accompanied with the threat of harm to one's family or death, the dilemma can be overwhelming. John's readers faced just such terrible threats. John wanted them to know that their lives were less important than their faithfulness to God. This life is short compared to eternity. Faithfulness now results in a favorable place in God's kingdom forever. Denying one's faith may save life now, but later consequences can be disastrous.

Bishop teaches philosophy and religion at Jones County Junior College, Ellisville.

Life and Work Faith's promises



By Cynthia Douglas
Hebrews 11

Hebrews 11 is often called the great faith chapter. Faith allows believers to live on the basis of God's promises. One aspect of faith demonstrated among believers in the Old Testament was the certainty they placed in God's promises even before they were fulfilled. Living by faith involves trusting God to fulfill His promises. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises and in Him believers receive all the fullness of God.

Are you sure? (Heb. 11:1-2). What is faith? Faith is belief in and a personal commitment to Jesus Christ for eternal salvation. Faith is a living hope as verse 1 says: "Faith is being sure of what we hope for." Faith is a living, absolute confidence in what God has done, is doing, and will do in the future.

Are you sure of your relationship to God? Have you, by faith, given your life to Him? Spiritual faith comes from God. Ephesians 2:8 says: "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God." God recognizes the person of faith. Are you a person of faith?

What pleases God? (Heb. 11:5-6). Hebrews 11 is also called the "Roll Call of Faith" as many people of faith are described. Verse 5 and 6 tell about Enoch who was commended as one who pleased God. What pleases God? God is pleased with those who believe He exists and who seek Him. Faith involves an active response by a person, and for believers in God this includes a life of prayer, worship, and obedience.

As people of faith, we affirm that God exists and He exists for each of us. Only faith pleases God - not works, not religion, not anything other than faith. We can know God and He is a gracious, personal, loving God.

What are you waiting for? (Heb. 11:13-16). The old hymn states: "This world is not my home, I'm just a-passing through." These words echo the content of verses 13-16. These great people of faith had their faith fixed on an inheritance which was heavenly, not earthly, and was in the future, not the present.

In the preceding verses, great men of faith are described who lived and died longing for a "better country — a heavenly one" (v. 16). They were still living by faith when they died. Believers live by faith when they continue to believe God's promises even when the fulfillment of those promises seems delayed. Are you longing to be with God? We honor Him when we live the life of faith and seek the eternal place He has prepared for us. Do you value getting along on earth as success or being prepared for heaven as the supreme accomplishment?

What could be better than this? (Heb. 11:39-40). People of faith in Old Testament times saw some of the promises fulfilled but the hope of a coming Messiah was yet to come. Jesus was the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises. Though the Old Testament people lived by faith, on this earth they did not see the fulfillment of the promise of a Messiah. John 20:29 says: "Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed." Old Testament people of faith and believers today are joined by a bond of faith to our living Lord. They lived in an age of promise, we live in an age of fulfillment and expectation. In Jesus, believers ultimately receive all that God has promised.

Faith is not merely having a vague sense of hope. Living by faith involves trusting God to fulfill His promises. "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith" (12:2). Faith is knowing that God exists, He loves me, has offered up the perfect sacrifice for sin, desires my love and obedience, and has prepared a place of eternal fellowship for His children. God always keeps His promises!

Douglas is a member of First Church, Columbus.



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Mrs. E. S. Clarke
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Ms. Peggy H. Harris
Mrs. Helen C. Mayfield
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Dr. Jonathan Sweat
Ms. Nell B. Wall
Mr. & Mrs. Rice P. York
Dr. Harold Hicks
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Billy C. Hill
Van Vleet Baptist Church
Mr. W. M. Hodges
Ms. Fern Tate
Mrs. Ozzell Dean Holland
Amy & Alana Raper
Barbara Hollingsworth
Mr. Wendell Webb
Minnie Horton
TEL SS, FBC-Booneville
Dean Hudson
Janie H. Womble
Mr. Kenneth Hughes
Ms. Wilma Nell Lee
Mrs. Sue Tillman Hull
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond L. Craig Jr.
Infant child of Mr. & Mrs. Banks
J. L. & Sue Elzey Ingram
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Lankford
Mrs. Margaret Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Crosthwait Jr.
Janice, Annabelle Davis' daughter
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie Mitchell
Mrs. Jennings
Mr. Charles W. Holmes
Doris Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Armstrong
Dr. Earle Johnson
Mrs. Modesta Roberts
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Mrs. Rachel C. Browning
Mr. Jerry Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Jerome B. Steen
Mrs. Ruby Lee Jones
Oak Grove Baptist Church
O. J. Jones
Friendship SS, FBC-Clinton
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Mr. & Mrs. Raymond L. Craig Jr.
Mr. Carl Keen

Mr. & Mrs. Terry Champion

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Clyde R. Kirby
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North Greenwood BC Friendship
SSC
Robert Louis Laney
Mrs. Dimple W. Cox
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Mr. & Mrs. Lamar Arthur
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Mrs. Virgie Magee
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Maria, sister of Cindy Hignigh
Mr. & Mrs. Hank Robison
Mrs. Claudia Marsalis
Mrs. Gail Kirkland
Mrs. Linda C. Mabry
Mr. Cecil Martin
Mr. & Mrs. Lonnie White
Mrs. Robert Martin
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Mrs. J. C. Mason
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rice
Mrs. Beatrice May
Gerald, Betty & Chad Wigington
Mike Mayfield
Mr. & Mrs. Sam M. Brand
Dr. & Mrs. Prentiss G. Cox
Dr. & Mrs. Frank Lovell
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Sessums
Mr. Mike Mayfield
Mr. & Mrs. H. H. Reynolds
Goldie McCormick
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond A. Magnan
Mr. Myrl McCormick
Mrs. Elizabeth Hale Hill
Mrs. Sue McCormick
Mr. & Mrs. Hank Robison
Mamie McCurdy
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Wallace
Joshua L. McGahagin
Woodland Hills BC Dorcus SS Class
T. C. McGee
Mr. & Mrs. Billy B. Rawls
Topey McMahan
Chapman Family Jackson
Miss Merlie McNease
Ms. Wilma Nell Lee
Sam P. McRae
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Womack
Mrs. Agnes McTargett
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Rogers
Emma Medders
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Routh
Linda Ann Merkl
Mr. & Mrs. Philip H. West Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Watson
J. J. Meyers
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John Nolan Miller, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Kelly Jr.
Mr. Charles W. Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rice
Mr. John N. Miller
Woodland Hills BC Dorcus SS Adult
Ben F. Mitchell IV
Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Mitchell
Aubrey Mitchell
Mrs. Rebecca S. Chesteen
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Porter

Douglas Mooney

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Mr. Algie Moore
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Blair
Mrs. Alice Morgan
Men's Bible Class, McAdams BC
Mother of John Ables
Friendship Class, N. Greenwood BC
Mother of Wayne Maddox
Mr. & Mrs. G. H. English
Mr. Eugene Myers
Gerald, Betty & Chad Wigington
Mr. A. T. Neal
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Bobby Osborn
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Frank Page
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Doris, Sandra & Ned King
Jewel Polk
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges
Mrs. Lottie Purser
Miss Mary F. Wyatt
Mr. Richard Rancourt
Mr. & Mrs. Larry W. Creel
Mrs. Becky Raper
Amy & Alana Raper
Mr. Prentice Renshaw
Mr. & Mrs. Bob McCord
Prentice C. Renshaw
Dr. & Mrs. Prentiss G. Cox
Charles Reynolds
Edith & Jack Fulton
Mrs. Bessie Ann Rials
Mrs. Norma G. Russell
Michael Wayne Roberts
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Mr. & Mrs. A. R. Mann Jr.
Fred Rogers
Ms. Pennie S. Dempsey
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Mr. & Mrs. Larry W. Creel
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Mabel Salters
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Mr. James Sauter
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Fortenberry
Larue Sauters
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Rogers
Laura Sauters
Kathy Sutton Oldmixon
Mark T. Sutton
Ms. Erlene T. Sutton
Mr. Larne Sauters
Ms. Wilma Nell Lee
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Mrs. Marguerite C. Howell
Mrs. W. Otis Seal
Mrs. Anita S. Williams
Mrs. Alma Sellers
Mr. & Mrs. Nickie White
Miss Betty Senter
Mr. & Mrs. Lonnie White
Cornelia Josephine Shaw
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Harpole
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Mrs. Sadie Ruth A. Scott
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Peggy Shows
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Gerald, Betty & Chad Wigington
Johnnie M. Sims
Mr. & Mrs. Roger B. Johnson
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Mrs. Sue Sims
Mr. & Mrs. D. L. Jennings
Mrs. Johnnie Mae Slaid
Cornerstone SS, Temple BC
Emmett Smith, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis L. McPhail
Emmett Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Douglas
Mr. & Mrs. Howard L. Green
Mrs. Sarah Holloway
Ms. Wilma Nell Lee
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Rogers
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Speed
*Emmett B. Smith, Jr. Smith
Mrs. Emma Jo Smith
Mrs. Bal Mobley
Golda Douglas Smith
Mr. Charles Douglas
Leon Smith
Mrs. Estelle C. Cooper
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Kemp
Lucile Smith
Mrs. Frances Hamner
Mr. Emmett Smith
Dr. & Mrs. Roy W. Daughdrill
Kathy Sutton Oldmixon
Mark T. Sutton
Ruth SS, Whitesand Baptist Church
Ms. Erlene T. Sutton
Mr. Emmett Smith, Sr. Smith
Mrs. Marzell Cobb
Mr. Leon Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Delbert L. Edwards
Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. Perkins
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Monnie Speakes
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Mr. & Mrs. Clifford A. Wand
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Mr. & Mrs. Steve Jarnagin
Mr. & Mrs. Ben M. Morgan
Thomas R. Family O'Neill
M/M John H., Amy & Damon Nowl-
in
Mrs. Barbara Buckley Taylor
Christopher Nelson Family
Rev. & Mrs. Glen M. Nelson Jr.
Thomas Conerly Family
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Mrs. Marie Taylor
Vertie, Marietta & LaNelle Brown
John Thomas

Ms. Mary A. Crosby

Mr. James Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. John L. Young
Mrs. Cedric (Essie) Thomas
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Dr. James Williams
Brookhaven Woodworking Club
Jane Williams
Oak Grove Baptist Church
Mrs. Helen Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Benton
Mr. Oliver Stewart Woods
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Skelton
Virginia "Mamaw" Wright
Mommie
Mr. & Mrs. Hilton Ray Ray
Mrs. Eloise Wroten
Mrs. Linda C. Mabry
Mrs. Margaret Wynn
Mrs. Beulah Abel
Mrs. Auden Young
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Pinnix Jr.
Mr. James C. Peay

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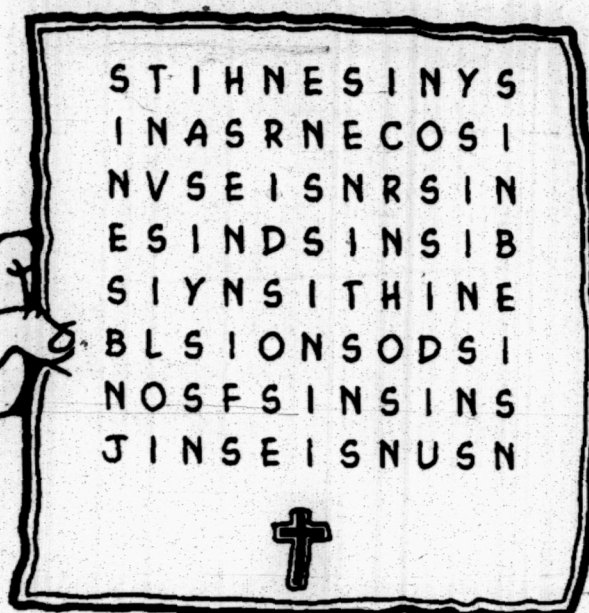
Mrs. Lucille Brister
Alathen SS, FBC-Collins
Charlie F., Jr. Brooks
Temple BC Cornerstone SS Class
Mrs. Gerald (Doris) Calloway
Robert & Frances Kemp
Mr. & Mrs. Horace Cole
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Oak Grove Baptist Church
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Steadfast SS, FBC-West Point
Frances Underwood
FBC Bay St. Louis
Linda Wilbourn
FBC Bay St. Louis



We're ready! Where's that bus?

DISAPPEARING ACT!

When we decide to become followers of Christ and give our lives to Him, the Bible says He forgives our sins and remembers them no more (Heb. 8:12). How can that happen? The sins just disappear! Where do they go? The answer is hidden in this grid of letters. Cross out every letter S, I, & N except the last two S's! Then copy the left-over letters in order in the spaces below.



Check your answer by reading 1 John 1:7 and 1 Peter 1:18-19.

Answer: They are covered by the blood of Jesus.

Source: *Solving Bible Mysteries* by Joy MacKenzie (Zondervan Publishing House, 1994), available at your local bookstore or by calling 800-727-3480.

VBS materials to undergo complete redesign for 1997

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) Vacation Bible School (VBS) materials for 1997 won't be what churches are expecting, but they should be what they've been asking for, Bill Taylor says.

After several years of refining the traditional VBS format, Taylor, director of the board's Bible teaching-reaching division, said he made a tough decision last May — canceling next year's already completed VBS materials and starting over from scratch.

"We decided we were not going to try to bring this house up to codes anymore. We're going to build a new house," he said.

Taylor's decision set in motion a series of events that will cut the normal production cycle for VBS materials from two years to six months.

After the "Highway to Happiness" VBS materials featured in the 1996-97 Church Materials Catalog were canceled, 20 people including BSSB workers and representatives from a state convention and several Southern Baptist churches gathered in Nashville in mid-July for a three-day VBS summit.

Representatives from churches who use BSSB materials and those who don't were included.

"We started at the beginning by redefining the purpose of Vacation Bible School. Next, we came up with principles which should guide our work, and finally we

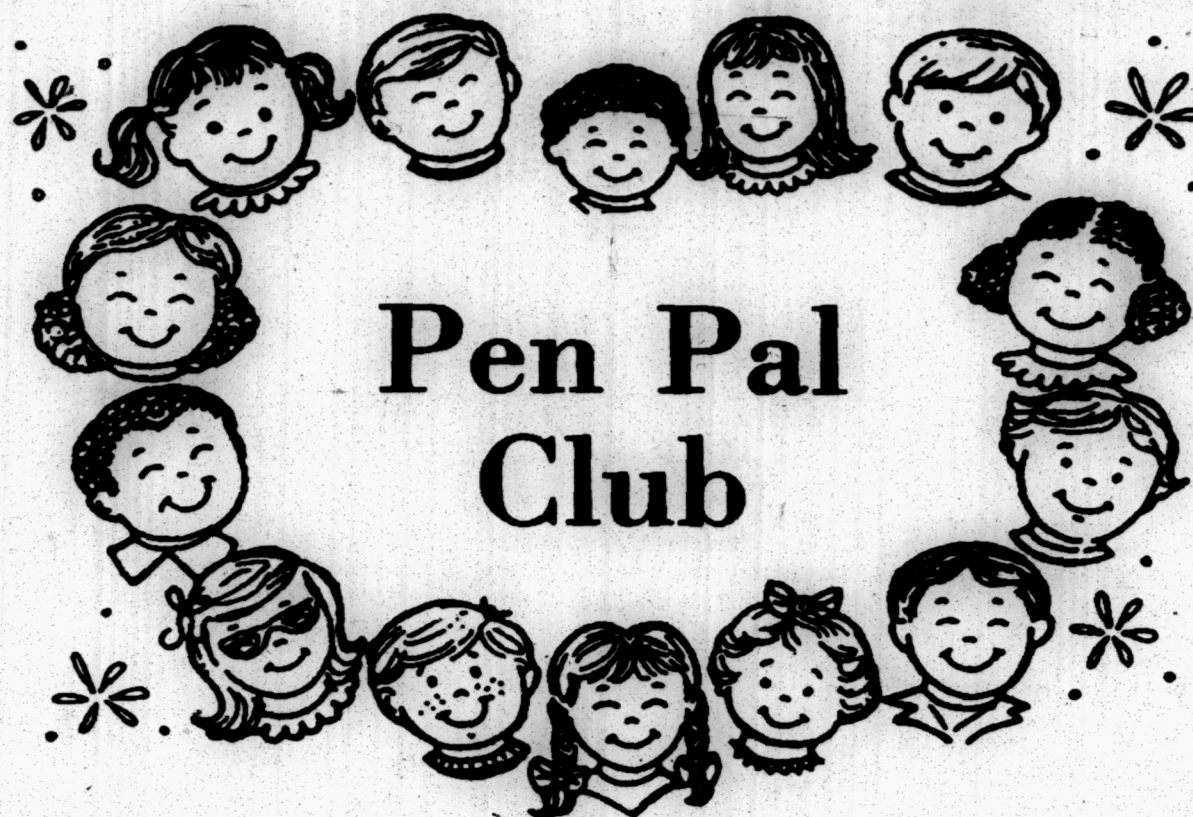
began developing new ideas for content and teaching approaches," explained Rob Sanders, newly appointed VBS specialist for the BSSB.

Summit participants approved as the new theme for 1997, "The Wild and Wonderful Good News Stampede: Telling Others About Jesus."

All materials are scheduled to be edited, printed and ready for delivery to the Sunday School Board's warehouse by Dec. 6, Sanders said.



Mission Friends from First Ocean Springs (left to right) Danielle Reyer, Chris Delpit (youth puppeteer), Kristyn Plunkett, and Kathryn Plunkett, enjoy activities at Mission Friends Western Round-Up.



Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hi, my name is Terri Leggett. I am 12 1/2 years old. I go to Fellowship Baptist Church. I have one brother and eighteen animals. I am home-schooled and going into the seventh grade. My birthday is September 26th. I would like a pen pal between 13 and 16, boy or girl. My hobbies are playing football, basketball, baseball, swimming, skating, riding my bike, walking and talking on the phone.

Please write to:
Route 1 Box 93
Mathiston, MS 39752

Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hi, my name is Christopher Leggett. I am 11 years old. I go to Fellowship Baptist Church. I have one sister and my birthday is March 28th. My hobbies are riding horses, skating and swimming. I would like a boy or girl between 10 and 13.

Please write to:
Route 1 Box 93
Mathiston, MS 39752

Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hey! My name is Aimee Cannon. I live in Batesville. I am 12 years old and going into the seventh grade at North Delta School. I

would like a pen pal between the ages of 12 and 15. It doesn't matter if you are a boy or girl. My hobbies are talking on the phone, playing with my friends, playing softball, basketball, running and swimming.

Route 2 Box 172
Batesville, MS 38606

Dear Pen Pal Club,

My name is Jessica L. Sullivan. I am 12 years old. I am in the seventh grade at Canton Academy. I have one sister and one niece. I like to talk on the phone, listen to my radio, ride my bike, and sing. I go to Calvary Baptist Church. I would prefer someone between the ages of 12 and 15 years old, but I'd write anybody! Boy or girl! Please send me a picture if you have one. Write to:

P.O. Box 1151
Canton, MS 39046

Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hey! My name is Courtney Lynn Morgan. I am 10 1/2 going into the 5th grade. My birthday is September 4, 1985. I go to New Providence Baptist Church. My hobbies are swimming, dancing and gymnastics. I go to school at Wesson Attendance Center. I would like a boy or girl

for a pen pal. Please write to:
2102 Ferguson Lane
Hazlehurst, MS 39083

Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hi, this is your pal Don Taylor Jr. of Sherman, MS. I go to North Pontotoc and go to Sherman Baptist Church. I have 5 hobbies: writing, drawing, talking to friends, swimming, playing. I am 10 years old now. I have one sister named Jala. I have a swimming pool. If you want to call me, call 840-2545 (boy or girl).

Write to:
11042 Highway 9 North
Belden, MS 38826

Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hi! My name is Chasity Richardson. I am 12 years old. My birthday is March 3. I have one brother, he's 14 years old. I like talking on the phone, swimming, skating, and playing softball. I go to Florence Middle School and Mt. Zion Church. I would like to hear from a boy or a girl. Write to:

Chasity Richardson
246 East Tucker Rd.
Florence, MS 39073

Baptist Record

005-DTM
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Mission Friends enjoy the puppet show presented by the youth members of First Ocean Springs at the church's recent Mission Friends Western Round-Up.